

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0894

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 10001

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, GW

SUBJECT: FRG-POLISH RELATIONS

REF: BONN 08038

1. A WELL-INFORMED SOURCE IN THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE TELLS US THAT THE FRG CONTINUES TO ASSUME THAT THERE WILL BE A MEETING BETWEEN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND CHAIRMAN GIEREK ON THE FRINGES OF THE FINAL ACT OF CSCE. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO REASON TO EXPECT A "BREAKTHROUGH" IN BONN-WARSAW RELATIONS. THE GERMANS HAVE SEEN NO SIGNS OF POLISH WILLINGNESS TO REVISE THEIR RESTRICTIVE
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POSITION REGARDING EMIGRATION OF ETHNIC GERMANS.

WITHOUT A MORE GENEROUS SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM THAN THE POLES ARE PRESENTLY WILLING TO COUNTENANCE, SUBSTANTIAL FRG PAYMENTS TO POLAND WOULD BE POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE. MOREOVER, IT IS NOT CLEAR IN THE FRG'S PRESENTLY STRAITENED FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE FUNDS FOR PAYMENTS TO POLAND COULD COME FROM. AT ONE TIME, THE FONOFF ENVISIONED THAT THE SO CALLED "KONJUNKTURREUECKLAGE" (A RESERVE FUND FOR STIMULATING THE ECONOMY WHEN DEMAND IS LOW) COULD BE USED TO FINANCE THE PROPOSED DM 1 MILLION CREDIT; HOWEVER, GIVEN CURRENT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS, IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT THIS SOURCE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE.

2. COMMENT. OBVIOUSLY THE FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES ARE MORE DIFFICULT NOW THAN THEY WERE IN EARLY 1974 WHEN THE FRG AND POLAND APPEARED CLOSE TO AGREEMENT. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT IF A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES IS REACHED THEN THE FINANCIAL MEANS COULD ALSO BE FOUND. PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE FRG STILL CONSIDERS THE LUMP SUM PENSIONS PAYMENT AS A VEHICLE FOR SATISFYING POLISH COMPENSATION CLAIMS AND FOR THIS PURPOSE A SUM CONSIDERABLY GREATER THAN THE FRG INITIAL OFFER OF DM 500 MILLION IS FORESEEN. THE MAJOR POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FRG ARE THAT THE EMIGRATION ISSUE MUST BE SOLVED IN A WAY WHICH CAN BE PRESENTED TO THE BUNDESTAG AND TO WEST GERMAN PUBLIC OPINION; AND THAT ANY FRG PAYMENTS TO POLAND MUST BE MADE IN A WAY WHICH WILL MINIMIZE THE ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN TO OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO DEMAND SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SETTLEMENTS FROM THE FRG.
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